

# Pataskala Utilities Department

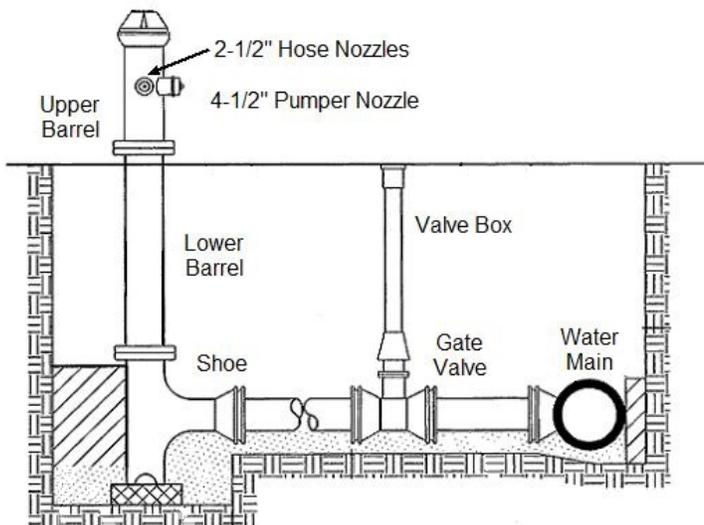
## Fire Hydrants



The City of Pataskala operates and maintains 525 fire hydrants that are part of our water distribution system. These hydrants provide water on demand for use in firefighting operations. The Utility Department uses “self-draining” hydrants. This means that the hydrants have underground weep holes located below the frost line to allow the water to drain after each use, preventing freezing, and potential damage, from occurring in the winter months.



Typical Fire Hydrant Installation



Along with firefighting operations, the hydrants are also used to flush the water main lines in the system. Hydrant flushing is an annual program, conducted in September or October. A large volume of water is discharged through each hydrant, removing any sediment or iron deposits in the water mains. This process also helps to maintain adequate chlorination in low flow areas. While flushing the water mains, we operate and inspect every hydrant in the system and identify any repairs that need to be made. Keeping hydrants in top condition is a critical priority for the department and for the safety of the community.

Sometimes hydrants are hit by cars, snowplows or other equipment. To prevent these accidents from damaging the water mains that the hydrants are attached to, they are designed to break away at ground level. A traffic repair kit can then be used to make repairs to damaged hydrants relatively easily. Should the entire hydrant need to be replaced, the cost of materials and labor is upward of \$3,000 a piece, so preventive maintenance is a critical component of our job responsibilities.

We would be happy to answer any questions at: Utilities Department, 621 W Broad St, 740-964-6275

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